



Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.3/1994/L.4/Add.7
14 April 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Special session
11-15 April 1994
Agenda item 10

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS SPECIAL SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: William McLENNAN (United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland)

Chapter ____.

STRENGTHENING INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL COOPERATION

(Agenda item 3)

Proposal for an Inter-Agency Task Force on Services Statistics

1. The report on the proposal for an inter-agency task force on services statistics was introduced by the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Statistical Activities of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC).
2. The Commission noted that its Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination had confirmed the establishment of a task force on services statistics, focusing on international trade in services in the first instance. The Commission expressed its appreciation to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for agreeing to be the convener of the task force.
3. The Commission recognized that international trade in services was an important subject requiring priority attention of an inter-agency group. However, several developing countries asked for a group to be set up to examine and consider services industry statistics in view of the emerging nature of this

sector in their economies, and the significant problems of measurement and accounting associated with the informal and household sectors. Some delegations, however, referred to the existence of the Voorburg Group on Services Industry Statistics and the OECD Group of Experts on Services Statistics, both of which were involved in conceptual and practical matters related to the measurement of services, and suggested that care be taken to avoid duplication of efforts.

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that a Task Force be set up, convened by OECD, focusing on international trade in services;

(b) Requested UNSTAT to investigate the best way in which the requirements of the developing countries could be met, and to report to the ACC Subcommittee on Statistical Activities and the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination at their forthcoming sessions. It agreed that, if necessary, a separate group on services in the domestic economy could be established.
